

# Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

FOUNDED 1980 AS AMES HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter to Members 2005 FALL ..... ISSUE #4/4

The mission of the Ames Historical Society is to preserve local history and illuminate its stories.



The "Dinkie" train provided reliable, regular transportation between Ames and the college for 16 years – 1892- 1907

### Ames Historical Society Board:

**President** Kathy Svec  
**Vice-President** Janet Jepeway  
**Secretary** Amy Swenson  
**Treasurer** Ken Cameron

### Members:

Roger Coulson, Dennis Wendell, Margaret Elbert Benson, Carole Jensen, Amy Swenson, Dottie Tschopp McGee, Cynthia Bennet, Peggy Baer

The Board meets the second Monday of each month at City Hall.

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs, exhibitions and operation of an archive and historic site.

**Headqtrs:** 108 5th, Ames, Iowa 50010  
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**Website:** www.ameshistoricalsociety.org

The newsletter is published four times a year for AHS members. Comments & questions may be directed to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April 1 through October 31.

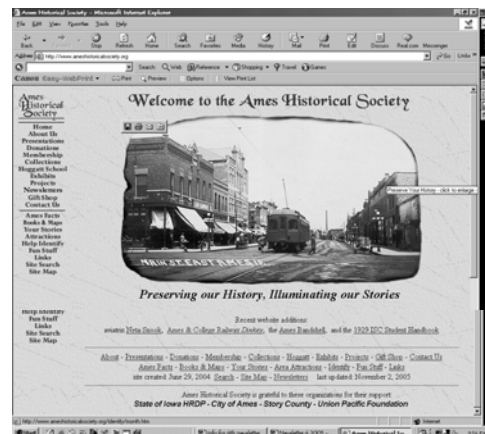
## Travel Through Time – Online! Old Meets New at [www.AmesHistoricalSociety.org](http://www.AmesHistoricalSociety.org)

The Society's website continues to add resources and garner praise. The site grew from 270 mb in June to 470 mb in September. Users are responding!

- "Checked your website last week. Wow! Incredible! Such wonderful coverage of Aunt Neta and Grandpa Snook. There is just so much to look at. We're enjoying it all. You should really be proud" – Kären and Ed John, AZ
- "Your web site is excellent, so easy to use! The information is fascinating and well organized. You should be commended. I've been surfing through it for an hour and I can't close it! I don't even know anyone in Ames, nor have I ever been there!" – Amy Heaven, KS

### Highlights of adds/changes:

- Under Ames Facts/Nationally known residents - **Ted Kooser**
- Under Collections/Businesses - **Hans Hansen**, Contractor & Builder: material donated by Ruth Hansen Boast
- Under Collections/Businesses - Richards' **Nibble Nook**: material loaned by Tom Richards
- Under Collections/Businesses - **Skateland**: photos & clippings supplied by Jerry Litzel
- Under Collections/Businesses - **Wm. F. Snook**: Enhanced material loaned or donated by Kären Smedal John and Karsten Smedal
- Under Collections/Organizations/Religious - **Collegiate Presbyterian Church**: history scanned from brochure
- Under Collections/Organizations/Religious - **First Christian Church**: history scanned from centennial history
- Under Collections/Organizations/Religious - **First Methodist Church**: Enhanced materials
- Under Collections/Organizations/Religious - **St. Cecilia Catholic Church**: text & photos scanned from centennial history
- Under Collections/Schools - **Beardshear**: Enhanced materials
- Under Collections/Schools - **Harlan**: history, floor plan, photo
- Under Collections/Schools - **Mitchell**: dedication program, floor plan, staff photo, M. Sterling quilt
- Under Collections/Schools - **Northwood**: history, dedication program, floor plan, 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary program, school song, photos, staff photos 1990-2004
- Under Collections/Schools - **Roosevelt**: Enhanced aerial photo; class photos loaned by F. Terrill Adams, Kären Smedal John, & Karsten Smedal



### Power of the Web: a Case Study

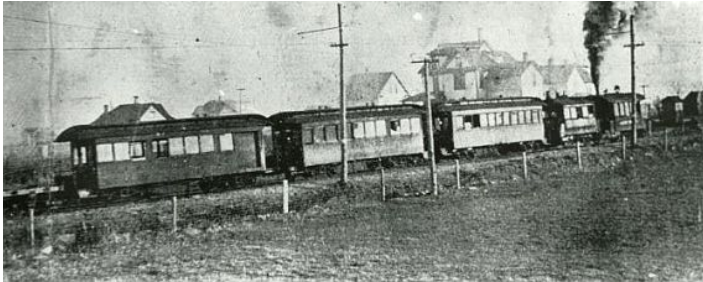
Recently we received an email inquiry soliciting help in identifying a nineteenth century oil painting of an unknown girl. The painting, purchased through a dealer in Missouri, bore an inscription on the back "From an estate in Ames, Iowa." This request lead to an exchange of emails that resulted in kudos for our efforts, appreciation for telling the Neta Snook (Ames aviatrix) story, a glowing letter to the editor of the Ames Tribune, a new membership and a contribution to the building fund! All this from a person, also an aviatrix, who found us on the Web! This chain of events energized and inspired us. (Thanks a bundle, Amy.)

# Ames Stories – Interesting Tales & Unique Chapters in Local History

## The Dinkey: Creating a Bond Between Ames and Iowa State

*By Dennis Wendell, Ames, with thanks to Farwell T. Brown and Gladys Meads*

Recent discussions in Ames about reviving the “Dinkey” have created a lot of curiosity about this interesting chapter from Ames’ past. We are pleased to present more information about this unique little train.



### The Dinkey’s Beginnings

From the 1860s until 1890, the main means of travel between the town of Ames and the campus of Iowa Agricultural College was by foot or horse-drawn vehicle along often muddy, dirt roads.

The Nichols and Maxwell Livery operated an omnibus known as the “college bus” to carry passengers, baggage and mail to campus. With the Ames population increasing ten-fold in its first 25 years and the campus population growing steadily, it became obvious that a more rapid means of travel between the two entities would be needed. Particularly important was a faster connection between the Chicago and Northwestern Depot and campus.

In September of 1890, a small group of Ames backers formed a corporation to satisfy that need, including Judge J.L. Stevens, R.J. Jordan, R.J. Hopkins and J.R. Whitacker. They were joined by “perennial” mayor, Parley Sheldon, his son, B.J. Sheldon, Prof. Joseph Budd, Dean Edgar W. Stanton, Dr. D.S. Fairchild, Capt. Wallace M. Greeley and M.K. Smith.

The corporation proposed formation of the Ames Street Railway Company, operating under the name of the Ames and College Railway, “to construct a horse car railway between Ames and the college.”

In mid-October, the Town Council granted a franchise to Ames & College Railway to operate on Ames streets. However, a special town study committee

concluded that a horse-car railway would not meet the demands for rapid transit. The report, dated

November 12, 1890, went on to state that “some means of rapid transit by electric or other railway would greatly benefit the college in various ways.” In the final agreement, the “Said Ames Street Railway Company hereby agrees to construct and have in operation a standard gauge railway to be operated by steam motor or other improved motive power as may be determined. Animal power is hereby expressly prohibited. Said railway is to be completed and in operation on or before Nov. 1, 1892.”

The Trustees of Iowa Agricultural College granted the company right of way across campus in January 1891. An agreement was also made authorizing the company to pick up college mail at the Ames post office and make delivery on campus. On July 4th, the Dinkey made its first run between downtown Ames and campus, well in advance of the November 1892 target date.

At first called the “Motor Line,” the train soon became affectionately known as the “Dinkey.” The name may have arisen from the diminutive size of the engine, or a corruption of the term “donkey” engine, a type of locomotive used for hauling and shunting rail cars.

The Dinkey was housed downtown in a rail barn at the east end of Onondaga (Main Street), just east of Duff Avenue and a stone’s throw from the Chicago and Northwestern Depot. A turnaround may have been provided at each end. At the west end of Onondaga where the Dinkey crossed the C&NW line, tracks were laid so that mainline freight cars could be switched onto the Dinkey’s rails and pushed out to campus.

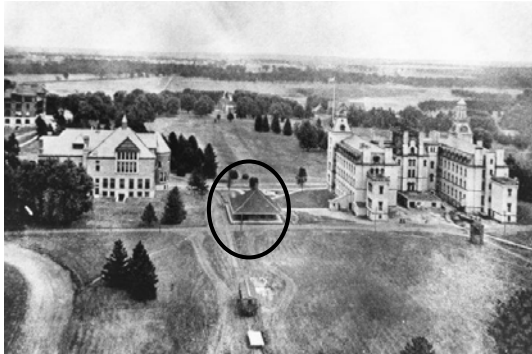
### The Dinkey’s Route

Every hour, starting at 8 a.m. and ending at 9 p.m., the Dinkey made its route. Three blasts from the engine’s whistle announced that departure was in five minutes.

The engine eased out of the terminal with two quick whistle toots. Starting on its almost two-mile route, the train crossed from its barn on Onondaga to Story (Fifth) Street and traveled west, picking up passengers along the way. The line crossed over the Squaw Creek bridge and floodplain to campus, going north of Farm House, south of Agriculture (Catt) Hall, and in front of Morrill Hall, terminating at the station between Old Main and Morrill. Amazingly, the fare for the Dinkey was never more than a nickel.

## Terminal

In 1892, a terminal was built between Morrill Hall and Old Main. In 1920, when use of this structure was discontinued, it was moved to a spot west of Morrill Hall, creating an open space between Morrill and Beardshear. It continued in use as a postal substation with a bookstore added.

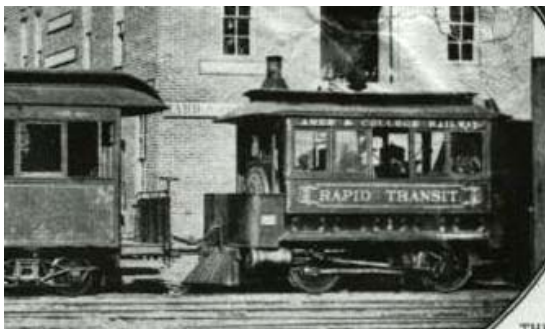


Looking east, Morrill Hall (left), Terminal (center), Old Main (right)

Additions were made in 1946 and 1952 to create more space. Automated snack service began in 1958, when the book store moved to the Memorial Union. The following year, it acquired the name we all know it by now, The Hub. In 1963, Hub snack service was expanded and a box office was added for selling tickets to campus events. Renovations since then have retained the depot-like appearance.

## Rolling Stock

Two different “donkey” steam locomotives may be seen in old photographs of the Dinkey. In at least one photo, both locomotives are shown pushing passenger cars. The engines shared several features: each had cow catchers, and each bore the numerals “two” and “Rapid Transit” lettered on the sides. They are distinguished by their contrasting rooflines and side panels.



The more Victorian and elaborate of the two engines (above) had a flattened roof, with “Rapid Transit” lettered within a flourished panel on each side. The plainer locomotive had a curved roof and less decorative side panels. At least one of the engines supposedly came to Ames from Waterloo, Iowa. The Ames & College steam engines were small 0-4-0 locomotives (no leading wheels, 4 drive wheels, no trailing wheels) running on standard gauge track.

A tender never appeared in any known photos of the engines, which could certainly burn coal or wood, and were likely refueled at either end of the line.

Three used passenger cars were purchased from the city of Des Moines. During the busiest times of the day all three cars were needed. Each car had a stove that was fired in winter by conductor, Hank Wilkinson. A very useful flat car was also included in the inventory of rolling stock.

The Dinkey’s rails were 30 pound versus today’s 136 pound track (based on the weight per yard of rail).

## Passengers & Freight

Students, faculty, school children, and townspeople were the bread and butter of the Dinkey’s passenger operation. With only three passenger cars, overflow riders often had to cling to platform and steps. Besides carrying passengers, the Dinkey carried mail from the downtown post office to campus for sorting into pigeon holes at the campus terminal.

A major contribution by the Dinkey’s was the transporting of a considerable quantity of building materials and equipment during the building boom on campus. New construction of the era included: Campanile (1897-1898), Marston Hall (1903), Alumni Hall (1904-1907), East Hall (1905), and Beardshear Hall (1906).

One of the most challenging jobs for the Dinkey involved carrying visitors to the College during Excursion Day. This early public relations effort to showcase the college was the brainchild of President Beardshear and eventually evolved into Veishea. People from around the state took trains into Ames and rode the Dinkey to campus to tour the buildings, watch a parade and athletic events, and enter contests. Home-packed lunches were brought and enjoyed in a picnic setting on the ever-beautiful central campus.

Records show that as many as 15,000 visitors swarmed over the campus. The flat car, normally reserved for hauling freight, was even pressed into service to carry passengers, whose legs dangled over the sides as they rode. Today, OSHA would be horrified! Many visitors simply walked the tracks to campus, or hitched a ride on an enterprising farmer’s wagon.

In her book, *At the Squaw and the Skunk*, Gladys Meads relates a story by Frank Lange, the engineer. “One of the things that made Frank’s life hard was young Seaman Knapp, son of Registrar, Herman Knapp. Seaman had a deep and unsurpassed longing to ride in the cab, and while it was so filled with passengers and making so many extra stops was Seaman’s opportunity to sneak on the forbidden spot on the Dinkey. So at the start of



every trip, the engineer would have to snoop out the boy from whatever spot he had chosen to hide till the train was in motion. It became a game of wits with sometimes Frank and sometimes Seaman winning."

Functioning as a "school bus," the Dinkey carried 4th Ward children to school downtown, placing the boys in one car and girls in another. Still, the children bedeviled the train personnel. One large boy in particular, Morrill Marston, son of Dean Anson Marston, was a menace. From Gladys Meads' book: "The trainmen tried to discipline him by pulling out ahead of time so as to make him hike to town, but he only came earlier and efforts not to stop for him brought his worst stunt. He simply laid down on the track, much to everyone's horror."

An accident involving another boy on the track did not have a positive outcome. One time, the Dinkey ran over a young boy and severed his leg. The railway was sued and financial backers were nearly ruined.

One last story from Dinkey engineer, Frank Lange, involves transporting a forbidden keg of beer for a student celebration. "The Dinkey engine had two water tanks, one on either side. The keg was to be carried here and when the Dinkey pulled up past the depot to turn the engine around the keg was to be eased off into some trees that were there in a kind of grove. All went according to plan, except someone else besides the assigned student got the keg." It was entirely possible that Pres. Beardshear, known for his uncanny way of knowing everything that went on, had confiscated the keg. He believed that, where alcohol was concerned, an ounce of prevention was worth a pound of punishment. Apparently nothing ever came of the affair."

## Conclusion

The Dinkey...

- made it possible for faculty to live downtown and commute to the College;
- carried school children from 4th Ward to school downtown;
- facilitated the transport of construction materials to campus during a period of great growth;
- was integral to town and campus life for 16 years, bonded the two communities, and furnished many memories of the good old days.

In 1907, the Ames & College Railway was sold to the Fort Dodge, Des Moines and Southern Railroad. The Dinkey's tracks on 5th Street were torn up and steam power vanished for good.

New tracks were laid for an electric trolley line running from Main Street to campus, and the line was extended from Kelley to Ames. The interurban made its first run down Ames' Main Street in July. A new station called "Central Station" was built opposite Chemistry Building.

Sometime during the WWI years, Seaman Knapp and Frank Lange made an unsuccessful attempt to locate and reclaim the Dinkey as a museum piece. The Fort Dodge, Des Moines and Southern Company had previously retired the Dinkey to its Boone yards, and when Knapp and Lange inquired about it, they were told it had just been donated to the wartime scrap iron drive. Back in Ames they spread the word that the Dinkey had been "thrown at the Germans." Even without the physical artifact, the Dinkey has provided its own legacy.

Photos: F.T. Brown Photo Archive, ISU Special Collections, Ames Historical Society

This ad (left) spoofing The Dinkey appeared in the 1906 college yearbook, the "Bomb."

### Watch Our Smoke

*Nothing is too poor for our Customers. Our Pullman observation is run on special occasions. Your Education is Only Half Completed unless you patronize the Ames & College Ry. This great East and West Thoroughfare is an Education in Itself. Magnificent, palatial trains run hourly over the finest road-bed in the world. A trip on the A. & C. is a picturesque reality. You can smell real smoke and breathe live cinders into your lungs. Our system of coach lighting produces more solid smoke than any other system ever invented. There is no extra charge if you have to stand up or hang on to the rear end. It is a distinct pleasure to ride over this great trunk line, where business-blocks, city-parks, railroad-yards, forests, rivers, fields and pastures blend into a harmonious whole on account of our smoke.*

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See that your ticket reads  
via The A. & C.

# Ames Historical Society News

## Building Fund Grows: Consider An End-of-the year Addition!

Since establishing a Museum Building Procurement Fund in January 2004, the total continues to grow:

|               |         |              |          |
|---------------|---------|--------------|----------|
| February 2004 | \$1,275 | December '04 | \$4,298  |
| April 2004    | \$2,950 | March 2005   | \$12,350 |
| August 2004   | \$3,465 | November '05 | \$13,126 |

### **Special thanks to these Building Fund donors:**

Anonymous donor, Margaret Mae Gross, Janet Jepeway, Jorgen Rasmussen, Kathy Svec, Lynn Jenison, Carole Jensen, Dennis Wendell, Peggy Baer, Rollie & Willie Struss, Janice Burkhart, Jeff Benson & Margaret Elbert, George & Marlys Ladd, Fred & Darlene Walker, M. Burton Drexler, M. A. Ukena, Robert & Harriet Shearer, Leo Lawlor, Frances Roberg, Reiny & Maureen Freidrich, Josephine Hicks, Janet Klaas, Amy Heaven.

## Site Committee Meets

Members of the Society's Site Committee have toured and gathered information on properties that may provide a permanent home for an Ames museum.

The group has toured Adams Funeral Home, the former Mathison Motors building and Roosevelt School, and considered several additional locations. The group will meet soon to compare and contrast the various possibilities presented by each structure.

Members interested in this committee may still be involved by calling the Society at 515-232-2148.

## Successful September Fundraiser at Border's Books in Ames

Border's Books in Ames sponsored a fundraising weekend for the Ames Historical Society in September. The event provided a discount to holders of coupons distributed by the Society and a percentage of those coupon sales as a direct donation. The event yielded \$825 from the coupons used, \$185 in cash donations, three new members and two pages of suggestions of what people would like to see in a museum!

The money raised will assist with purchasing a specialized scanner that will process transparent materials such as film negatives and slides. This will be a key piece of equipment in making The Tribune Photo Archive usable to the public. Dollars from the fundraiser will supplement a state Historic Resource Development grant to purchase the equipment.

## Storage Expands

The Society's collections will have more room to expand with the addition of rented storage space at 208 Fifth Street, downtown in the Lechner Building. AHS will continue to occupy the headquarters building at 108 Fifth and hopes to re-establish the exhibit area that had been taken over for collections storage.

## Hoggatt School Ends Its Season

The Society's school house museum enjoyed many visitors and tours during its annual season from April 1 to October 31, including four tours for Mainstream Living and school tours for Sawyer School and St. Cecelia's.

### **Special thanks to these hosts and tour guides:**

Carole Jensen, Julie Jorstad, Roger Coulson, Dottie McGee, Burt Drexler, Ellie Vandeventer, Maureen Friedrich, Don Faas, Janice Olson, Rupert and Carmen Kenyon, Bruce Kellogg, Charlotte Konopa, Peggy Gurau and Jim Graham.

Last year's extensive interior repairs by a hardy group of volunteers were thoroughly appreciated by all who used the school this year!

## Society Establishes Endowment

With the search underway for a facility, the Society's Board recognizes the need to begin planning for a way to fund the ongoing operations of the Society's activities. To that end, an operations endowment has been established. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed. AHS is a 501(c)(3) organization.



## Identify This Portrait

This e-mail was received via the AHS website:

"I recently purchased this spectacular oil painting of a little girl. Judging by her clothing, I would estimate it to be 1870's. The inscription on the back says 'From an estate in Ames, Iowa.' It came to me through a dealer in Rich-

mond, MO. Do you think one of your members might be able to identify her? Thank you very much. I greatly appreciate your effort." Amy Heaven, Lexington, MO  
Note: see page one for ways to contact us if you have clues.

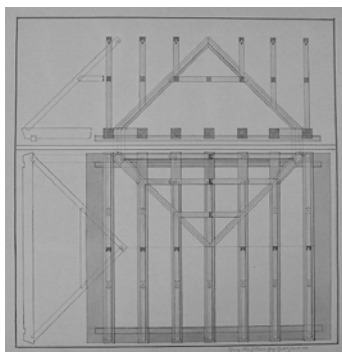
# The Curator's Column by Dennis Wendell

## Donations to the Collection

Highlights of gifts received July-September include:

- **Collegiate United Methodist Church** anniversary publications & membership directories [from *The Church*]
- 200 color slides of window displays by Adele Figura for **J.C. Penney's** (1956-1957) and her miniature scenes created for **Ames Public Library's Little Theater** (1966-1982) [from *Gene Figura*]
- Archival records and carpentry tools of early Ames builder, **Hans J. Hansen**, and much more as the donor downsized and moved from her town-house to an apartment at Green Hills [Ruth Hansen Boast]

Hans Hansen construction drawing from 1898



- **Hotel Ames** wooden sign; **Trow Milk Distributor's** milk box [from *Thelma Walker*]
- Additions: **Mary Sterling** collection: retirement recognition letters; **Dick Schory** family phonograph player [from *Joan Herwig*]
- Set of **Sanborn Fire Insurance maps**, 1926 updated to 1948 [from *Grant Quam*]
- **Billy Sunday** photo post cards ca.. 1906-1916 [from *Cynthia Avalos*]
- **Radio Stars** monthly magazine 1933-1935; **WHO, KRNT & KSO** weekly program schedule handwritten by Homer McNeil, 1930s [from *Janet McNeil Hurlbert*]
- Cast-iron **ISC horse** bookend ca. 1920s [from *Linda Lester Morris*]
- **Ames centennial plate**, 1964 [Margaret Elbert]
- Archival material & artifacts from three generations of the early Ames **Selby** family [from *Mary Metzger*]

### THIS IS TO INTRODUCE LEE FELLINGER CANDIDATE FOR MAYOR IN THE NOVEMBER 4 MUNICIPAL ELECTION:

From 1968 to 1972, Lee represented the second ward on the City Council, working to help accomplish hundreds of solutions to municipal problems, and beginning or finishing council action on a large number of important municipal projects, including:

An \$18,000 addition to the hospital, installation of a gas turbine generator for the power plant, addition of Carl's pool and Hammond golf course to the park system, encouraging Sundstrand, Inc. and the Veterans' Eligibility Unit to locate Ames, obtaining \$14,000 annually from Story County for use at the Ames landfill, purchase of the railroad depot for city office space, designating the first bicycle path for the city, establishing a computer center, health, safety and environmental programs, the 10th street extension project, remodeling of the Lincoln Way and Grand Avenue intersections, a new computer building with authorized population density, the first and addition under H.S.D., water plant expansion, and computer data processing system installation at Mary Greeley Hospital.

Lee graduated from high school and junior college in Burlington, Iowa, and was employed as a calculator of turbine steam rates at the Ames Iron Works there. She worked on the Manhattan Project at the University of Chicago and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as a lab technician in 1944. After World War II, she was named as an "American Woman of Science", an honor designated for those who worked on the A-bomb project. She and husband Bob opened the new Planned Court in 1967 taking with them many who are still residents of Ames, when Bob was a graduate



student in mechanical engineering. He is now a professor in that department. The Planned Court, naturally, is still in use 28 years later. Lee says, "worth not for temporary solution to long-range problems."

The Fellingingers moved from Planned Court to their own home at 1228 Riverside in 1971. In 1975, they sold the house and moved to the Towners apartment at 1111 Lewis.

Lee and Bob are the parents of Mike, who is married and on the research staff at the University of Colorado, and Ann Fellinginger Olson, whose husband Dave is teaching at UIO.

Lee graduated from UIO in 1958 with a mathematics degree and election to Sigma Xi, science honorary, and Phi Kappa Phi, scholastic honorary. She taught in the math department for nine quarters and was a computer programmer for the AEC, both on a part-time basis.

Lee and Bob are members of St. John's Episcopal Church.

Lee has served as a Cub Scout den mother (13 years), Carl Vista troop leader (13 years), member of the League of Women Voters (13 years), as an advisory trustee for the Hospital Auxiliary (13 years), as a Sunday School teacher (8 years), and admits to being a "rummy" player and a "vicious recreational bridge player."

## Requests and Questions

We get questions weekly by phone, e-mail and in person. Here are some typical ones:

- I'd like to include a photo of an **Omar Bakery** delivery van in a poetry book soon to be published. Could you provide such a photo? We supplied one from the *Tribune Photo Archive*.
- Is there a list of Story County towns and their **founding dates**? There is now.
- Do you have a photo of **dance instructor**, Beverly Clemons Lewis? We provided one from the *Tribune Photo Archive* for publication in an obituary.
- Has the 1948 murder of Ames Canning Factory manager, Henry Chavis, ever been **solved**? No.
- Do the **original architectural drawings** of the Lechner Building exist, and can they be copied? They survive in very fragile condition, and some may be carefully photocopied in sections.
- While using a metal detector in Brookside Park I found a mutilated, mid-nineteenth century quarter **engraved** on the obverse with the initials "MJH." Do you have any idea to whom these might refer? M.J. Hanks, Mary J. Hannum, Mary J. Heyer, etc.
- Our sorority is planning to add a sprinkler system. Do you have the **blueprints** for our house? They were copied and supplied to Chi Omega.

## Professional Interactions

The webmaster, Alan Spohnheimer, and the curator spent an exciting Saturday morning this summer touring the collections vault of the State Historical Society of Iowa. This superb facility, where 100,000 objects are stored in a 28,000 square foot, climate-controlled area, is a benchmark for planning our own future museum.

Always scrounging for recycled archival supplies, the curator responded to an enticing offer from the Hoover Presidential Library of free document boxes. Long-time friend, Paul MacVey, was recruited to drive his 1992 Dodge



van (sans A/C) to West Branch on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, one of the hotter days of the year. Carefully timing the trip to avoid heavy traffic at home games in both Ames and Iowa City, the team loaded 186 legal-size, acid-free document boxes into the van's 4x4x6' passenger space. Sara Vouthilak, above, of Dabble Books in Story City, graciously consented to store the boxes until needed.

## Largest Bequest Received to Date: Bertrand and Mary Adams

Thousands of art objects and historical documents came to AHS this fall as a bequest of long-time Ames resident Mary Adams. In her will, this benefactor provided that the entire contents of her home be given to us, setting an example of support for others.

The Society is grateful to her for entrusting important artwork, antiques, and medical instruments to our care. Mary did not want to break up the collection with a sculpture piece going to one institution, a painting going to , etc. AHS was the only institution that could assure her the collections would stay intact. As agreed upon, the extensive art collection and 1950s medical office will be kept intact in a historical museum being planned, and household goods will be sold at auction to support the preservation and restoration of the works of art and archival materials.



Pen and ink sketch by Mary Adams of the land west of the Adams home at 1013 Adams Street. This pasture land is now The Reserve subdivision.

Also in the collection are antiques from the Robert Nicholson family (owner of an early grist mill and first mayor of Carlisle, Iowa). They will be held in custody until that city is able to accommodate them.

Although the couple had no immediate survivors, a lasting Adams legacy will be provided with the preservation of their collections in the Ames Historical Society. The inventory and appraisal process continues, and researchers will eventually be able to examine this collection's trove.

Strengths include historical regional artwork (Grant Wood, "Ding" Darling, Christian Petersen, Arnold Pyle, Harry Jones, Roscoe Lorenz); archival material (correspondence, photos, audio tapes), an eclectic medical library, vintage therapy devices (Raylax table, Medcolator, Novafon, Acu-U-Meter, Electro-Acuscope), and intact office.


Mary's husband, Dr. Bertrand R. Adams (1907-1994), was an osteopathic physician who practiced in Ames from 1944 until his retirement in 1991. Many residents will recall the Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired home that he designed and built on the north edge of town between 1949 and 1958. Dr. Bert's patients remember the medical office on the lower level where physical manipulation and electromagnetic wave therapy in the "Faraday Cage" gave welcome relief from back pain.

Bert explored fringe areas of medicine and had wide-ranging interests: diet, nutrition, organic food, acupuncture, auricular therapy, electronic medicine, reflexology, hypnosis, auras, psychic phenomena, graphology, astronomy, astrology, and gardening.

He is also well known for his early art career (1925-1940) and his association with Grant Wood, mid-America's favorite regional artist. Bert was one of fourteen artists assisting Mr. Wood in painting the ISU Library murals located in the stairwell to the upper lobby. Later, Bert painted murals of his own design for the Dubuque, Iowa, and Siloam Springs, Arkansas, post offices.


Mary E. (Beymer) Adams (1909-2005) was an accomplished artist in her own right. Along with Bert, she graduated from the University of Iowa in 1932, then waited twenty-five years for his marriage proposal. They finally wed in Des Moines in 1956, at which time Mary moved to Ames. "Prairie Ark," as Bert christened his home, was host to gatherings of local artists such as Christian Petersen and Lockie Schuster, Ames Town and Country Toastmasters, and Ames Area Amateur Astronomers. (Bert had his own astronomical observatory in the backyard featuring a 10" Astrola reflecting telescope, the obvious center of attention at stargazing parties).

Mary enjoyed sketching, painting in oils and watercolor, doing graphic art for the Ames Woman's Club, and with Bert, creating their annual Christmas card design. She also liked to travel, organize family history, bowl, play bridge, and entertain.



**Ames Historical Society Member Benefit**  
**10% off regularly priced books at**  
**BIG TABLE BOOKS, 303 Main, Ames**  
**Offer good to 2/1/06 by showing this newsletter.**

**Ames Historical Society Member Benefit**  
**10% off collector's reference books at**  
**ANTIQUÉ AMES, 202 Main, Ames**  
**Offer good by showing this newsletter.**



## Still Seeking Help: Mayor Project

The Society is seeking volunteer sleuths to research images and information on one or more of Ames' 37 mayors. Some information on individual mayors is known, but others need to be researched. Assistance will be provided by city staff and others who can provide information. Willing to take on even a single mayor? Call 232-2148.

## We Get Fan Mail!

"I just looked at the Ames Historical Society website, and it is wonderful! The quality of the pictures is amazing, and the selection is fantastic. Now if H.J. Hansen can get two "pages" to keep up with the W.F. Snook pages!" -- *Charles Boast, IL*

"Your website is impressive! I have seen quite a few built by non-profits which can't hold a candle to it." -- *Nancy Ross, CT*



## Final call for 2005 renewals.

Membership renewals for 2005 are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment -- though we accept your dues payment at any time.

We are excited about our growing collections and our work toward a real facility. Your membership dollars make continued progress possible!

See the label on this newsletter for your anniversary date and the level at which you renewed or joined.

|                                  |                |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Introductory - first year</b> | <b>\$10</b>    |
| <b>Individual</b>                | <b>\$25</b>    |
| <b>Family</b>                    | <b>\$40</b>    |
| <b>Friend</b>                    | <b>\$50</b>    |
| <b>Sustaining</b>                | <b>\$100</b>   |
| <b>Benefactor</b>                | <b>\$500</b>   |
| <b>Patron</b>                    | <b>\$1,000</b> |

### Additional amount for

|                      |          |
|----------------------|----------|
| Building Fund        | \$ _____ |
| Operations Endowment | \$ _____ |

Send to:

**Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010**

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